

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 NASA-01 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 CU-02 AGR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6942

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0273

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MA, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED U.S. STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS NEW MALAGASY GOVERNMENT

REF: TANANARIVE 0232

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE ANTICIPATE MOVING FORWARD SHORTLY WITH NEW GOMR ON RESUMPTION NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS. WITH FRIENDLY ANDRIAMAHAZO AS COORDINATING MINISTER OF STATE AND WITH NEW FOREIGN MINISTER IN PLACE OF PREVIOUSLY HOSTILE RATSIRAKA, UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY EXISTS FOR TRYING BRING GOMR TO MORE FAVORABLE STANCE ON ISSUES OF MAJOR U.S. INTEREST LIKE KHMER REPRESENTATION AND "PRG" STATUS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS, HOWEVER, DEPT WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED AUTHORIZE EMBASSY TO TALK ABOUT REASONABLY CONCRETE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW AND EARLY PL 480 OF A.I.D. ASSISTANCE. ALSO, WOULD DEPT WANT NAVAL SHIP VISIT QUESTION RAISED WITH NEW GOMR? FRENCH HAVE JUST RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION FOR VISIT BY 3 VESSELS UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE NEW MALAGASY GOVERNMENT IS BEING ORGANIZED, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT USEFUL TO PLAN STRATEGY WHICH WILL BEST SERVE
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U.S. INTERESTS IN MADAGASCAR WITH NEW GOVERNMENT. WE

THINK THAT, WITH GENERALLY HOSTILE RATSIRAKA OUT AND NEW UNKNOWN QUANTITY OF ZAKARIASY IN AS FOREIGN MINISTER, THERE MAY BE OPPORTUNITY EFFECT SOME CHANGE IN MALAGASY POSITION ON CERTAIN MATTERS OF U.S. INTEREST.

2. FORTUNATELY, FROM OUR STANDPOINT, CHIEF OF STATE RATSIMANDRAVA HAS PUBLICLY AFFIRMED THAT MINISTER OF STATE ANDRIAMAHAZO WILL HAVE FUNCTION OF COORDINATOR IN NEW GOVERNMENT (TANANARIVE 0267). I PLAN THEREFORE WITHIN FEW DAYS TO SEEK MEETING WITH ANDRIAMAHAZO TO (A) RESTATE OUR READINESS PROCEED WITH CONCLUSION A.I.D. RAILROAD LOAN, (B) INDICATE WE PLAN, IF APPROPRIATE, APPROACH NEW MINISTRY POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO RESUME NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS, AND (C) SUGGEST EARLY SUBMISSION OF COORDINATED GOMR REQUEST FOR EXPORT-IMPORT BANK CREDIT. I MAY ALSO RAISE STATUS OF OIL MARKETING COMPANY PROBLEMS IF THAT SEEMS INDICATED AFTER CHECKING WITH CALTEX AND PERHAPS ESSO.

3. AT RELATIVELY EARLY POINT I ALSO INTEND PROPOSE CALL ON NEW FOREIGN MINISTER. THIS COULD PRESENT OPPORTUNITY TO TRY BRING MADAGASCAR AROUND TO MORE FAVORABLE STANCE ON QUESTIONS OF MAJOR U.S. INTEREST (SUCH AS KHMER REPRESENTATION AND "PRG" STATUS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS) IF DEPT IS PREPARED ARM EMBASSY WITH ANY NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE IN PL 480 OF A.I.D. FIELDS. TO BE USEFUL IN ACHIEVING ANY CHANGE IN MALAGASY POSITION, I WOULD HAVE TO BE AUTHORIZED TALK ABOUT REASONABLY CONCRETE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW AND EARLY ASSISTANCE. ATTEMPT TO USE IN THIS CONTEXT A.I.D. RAILROAD LOAN, WHICH MALAGASY HAVE EXPECTED FOR OVER TWO YEARS AND WHICH HAS EFFECTIVELY SERVED ITS PURPOSE IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO EXTEND NASA STATION, WOULD BE SELF-DEFEATING. TO HAVE CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN OUR POLITICAL OBJECTIVE, WE WOULD HAVE TO TALK ABOUT NEW ASSISTANCE, EITHER IN RESPONSE TO GOMR REQUEST FOR RICE UNDER PL 480 OR AN A.I.D. AGRICULTURAL LOAN EARLIER THAN CURRENT THINKING OF FY 1977.

4. IT IS THUS UP TO DEPT'S RESPONSE ON ECONOMIC
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ASSISTANCE WHETHER SERIOUS EFFORT OFFERING ANY REAL CHANCE OF SUCCESS CAN BE MADE TO BRING NEW GOMR AROUND TO MORE PRO-U.S. POSITION ON MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATION ISSUES OF CONSEQUENCE TO U.S.

5. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPT'S GUIDANCE ON SHIP VISIT QUESTION. SHALL WE CONTINUE LET IT LIE IN ABEYANCE, OR SHOULD IT BE RAISED WITH NEW GOMR? WE LEARNED FROM

FRENCH MILITARY COUNSELOR FEB 8 THAT FRENCH RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ZAKARIASY FEB 7 TO BRING THREE NAVAL VESSELS INTO DIEGO-SUAREZ TO EVACUATE FRENCH NAVAL EQUIPMENT IN CONNECTION WITH DEFINITIVE DEPARTURE OF FRENCH NAVAL FORCES FROM THEIR BASE THERE. PREVIOUS FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA HAD TURNED DOWN FRENCH REQUEST.

6. THUS, NEW ATTITUDE SEEMS EVIDENT IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT WHETHER IT WILL STRETCH FROM SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROPOSED FRENCH NAVAL VISIT TO REGULAR PORT VISITS BY U.S. NAVAL VESSELS REMAINS BE SEEN. IF DEPT WANTS EMBASSY APPROACH MADE, BUT INITIAL ANSWER BY NEW GOMR IS NEGATIVE, WOULD DEPT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY ASK FOREIGN OFFICE WHETHER POSSIBILITY OF U.S. MILITARY CREDIT ASSISTANCE WOULD MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IN GOMR RESPONSE?

7. REQUEST EARLY DEPT GUIDANCE ON PARAS 4, 5 AND 6.
MENDENHALL

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